

## **ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Summary of Minutes**

**August 27, 2002**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Chairman Dennis A. Garrett, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department  
Harry Beck, Deputy Chief, Phoenix Fire Department  
David Bennett, Assistant Police Chief, representing Harold Hurtt, Chief, Phoenix Police Department  
Hal Collett, La Paz County Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Association  
Michael F. Fusco, Fire Chief, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association  
Roy Ryals, Director of EMS Services, Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Roberto Villaseñor, Assistant Chief, representing Richard Miranda, Chief, Tucson Police Department

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Michael Austin, Director, Arizona Division of Emergency Management  
John Corder, Chief, Show Low Police Department  
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire District Association  
Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department

#### **Other Attendees:**

Mike Branham, Executive Director, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Kati Burke, Communications Superintendent, Tucson Police Department  
Carol Campbell, Project Coordinator, Phoenix Police Department  
David Felix, Lt. Colonel/CJSD Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Ward Fleger, Deputy Chief, Mesa Fire Department  
Robert Frey, Communications Engineer, City of Mesa  
Joe Gibson, Communications Center Manager, Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Gerald Hardt, Program Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Calvin Hess, Administrative Manager, Pinal County Sheriffs Office  
Joe Hindman, CSB Police Administrator, Phoenix Police Department  
Joe Jakoby, Systems Engineer, City of Tucson  
Kevin Jeffries, Probation Safety Specialist, Arizona Supreme Court  
Curt Knight, Telecommunications Bureau Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Jack Lane, Lieutenant/Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Blake McClelland, Commander, Phoenix Police Department  
Pat Nelson, Records Program Coordinator, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Joe Noce, Public Safety Communications Administration, Mesa Police Department/APCO  
Stan Park, Arizona Department of Corrections  
Jim Perry, Administrator, City of Tucson  
Bill Phillips, Telecommunications Administrator, City of Phoenix  
Robert Ramming, Project Management, Government Information Technology Agency  
Jeffery Resler, Commander/CIO, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Kevin Rogers, Support System Analyst, Northern Arizona University Police Department  
Mike Sacco, Lieutenant, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Larry Sayers, Radio Communications Manager, Pima County  
Tom Smith, Senator, Arizona State Senate

Mike Sumnicht, Strategic Business Manager, Motorola  
Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Liz Wallendorf, Project Manager, City of Tucson  
Pete Weaver, Emergency Manager, Pinal County Emergency Management  
John Wilcox, EMS Manager, Air Evac Services, Inc.

### **Call to Order**

Director Dennis Garrett opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Introductions of the attendees took place.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Michael Fusco to accept the minutes of March 26, 2002, seconded by David Bennett. Motion passed.

### **Arizona one-day Interoperability Conference Briefing / Evaluation Results**

A recap report of the Arizona one-day conference was provided by the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN). Based on feedback from PSWN, the Arizona conference was the largest in attendance they have had in any conference with a good cross section of participants. This kind of participation speaks well for the state of Arizona. All the support, including support from the elected and appointed officials are the result of the education and outreach process. PSWN did a good job of highlighting and addressing viewpoints from the conference. Curt Knight stated he has received many calls from vendors and interested parties related to the role of a consultant, in support of the committee, even vendors interested in selling spectrum.

David Felix talked about the Strategies to Improve Arizona's Interoperable Communications and acknowledged that the PSCC is on track to keep this effort moving forward. Arizona is the most active state in the country in pursuing public safety communications interoperability through the efforts of the AZ PSCC committee.

### **700 MHz**

The last 700 MHz meeting was held on July 12, 2002, in Sedona. The committee established draft By-laws for the committee.

The next Region 3 (Arizona) 700 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee meeting is scheduled from 1-4 p.m. on October 24, 2002. It will be held in Cochise County, Board of Supervisors conference room located at 1415 Melody Lane, Building B, Bisbee, Arizona.

The FCC is conducting a License Audit to identify and recover any licenses and respective frequency use from those licensees that are no longer using their systems. System owners risk the potential loss of their license authorization should they fail to respond.

### **Phoenix/Mesa Communications System**

**Bill Phillips - Phoenix** / Phoenix has completed the physical construction on 12 of 25 transmitting sites. Equipment installation is substantially complete in ten of those 12 sites. Remaining are the hard sites; awaiting clearance to start construction. Phoenix has a new tower. DPS Telecommunications staff did a great job of removing antennas off the old tower and into the new one. Phoenix is moving very rapidly on this one site.

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Both Mesa & Phoenix are involved with a software upgrade. Motorola has a team of engineers who will be involved over the next month and a half. They are putting a new software edition in their system before they are operational, and they will be performing substantial testing.

A subscriber equipment RFP is in final review. Phoenix is in the process of hiring a consultant to assist with quality control to review their RFP. The RFP should be out on the street by mid-September. Physical construction has been extended past this Calendar Year, to February or March 2002. The operational date has not changed, and is scheduled for August-September 2003.

**Joe Noce -Mesa** / Seven of nine sites are now completed. The other two sites are under construction. Apache Junction Station 4, should have the equipment in the next couple weeks. The final site is Gilbert. Mesa is hoping to have the system up and complete by either October 2002, or January 2003. They only have 5 channels operational. They are involved in the re-pack of channels. Until that is done, they will not be able to get the 15 channels. Testing on the new operating system is scheduled for next week. Thompson Peak Site Repeater is up and operational. Loading is scheduled for March 2003. Mesa will operate on the same RFP as Phoenix. Gilbert PD will also be joining them on their system, negotiations are underway.

### **Gila River Indian Community**

No update available.

### **Tucson Police Department**

**Joe Jakoby** / For the past year the project has been on hold. Two weeks ago they identified a budget to begin the project again. Prior to the project, Tucson is going to begin upgrading the microwave system. Tucson is looking at replacing its MDT and AVL system infrastructure. They are also looking at a new communications center. Time frame not available.

### **MDC Project Update - Maricopa County**

DPS is scheduled to receive funding this fiscal year to begin the replacement of the Mobile Data Terminal system to a Mobile Data Computer system. DPS has the initial funding to replace our Maricopa County, Pima County, and part of Pinal County coverage. DPS has been approached by Maricopa County to help build out some of the coverage in the Maricopa County area, with the idea that they would participate with their own devices connected to that. They are interested in pursuing the private approach connected to our system and helping DPS build it out, as well as looking at some public CDPD or cellular type arrangement. They haven't committed one way or the other.

### **NAU Graduation Interoperability Test**

**Kevin Rogers** / Northern Arizona continues to try to share infrastructure. With Mr. John Fairchild's retirement in July, they have partnered with NAU PD. For some time Flagstaff had a project to migrate the Police Department and City Public workers to the NAU 800 system. The migration of the Flagstaff PD units started in early June. Negotiations are ongoing with APS to help cover the area they knew was going to be weak. That process has been slow, but they are planning to have a draft agreement in a couple weeks. In the meantime they are using channels to fill in that coverage area. There is a lot of cross patching in their console. NAU also addressed VHF & UHF inter-agency frequencies with the help of Curt Knight and DPS Telecommunications staff. They had an opportunity to use that and were able to take that inter-agency on all the DPS portables, cross patched

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into a number of their talk groups and they handled their traffic control communications in that manner. They continue to get creative.

NAU was anticipating protesters in Page. DPS Lieutenant Wells was there with other DPS officers, and Coconino County Sheriff's Department, in case something broke out. They made changes to some phone lines, and they were able to cross patch Navajo Mountain with the Sheriff's Office (through their consoles in Flagstaff), DPS, and Page to go ahead and talk, and it worked very well. This weekend they are gearing up for the anticipated busy weekend with the Arizona/California Hell's Angels games in Flagstaff. Preparations are being made and they have a lot of communications in place.

### **ACU-1000 / Interoperability Project Concept**

David Felix supports any regional area interested in interoperability pilot projects. DPS has discussed the possibility of setting up an interoperable communications network to service a regional group of agencies. Discussions are underway to include the use of ACU-1000's. The cost for an ACU-1000 is approximately \$18K for a full system. It supports up to 12 channels, and the cost of each additional channel is \$1K. The coverage is dependent upon your individual radio system. Agencies could also install console interconnects, like at NAU, and establish communications interoperability. If there is an opportunity for short-term interoperability, let's do it. It falls in line with Domestic Preparedness and Homeland Defense and is one of the steps outlined in the needs assessment RFP. It can be used for any of these joint operations where there is an opportunity to pilot these things.

The National Guard is also interested in a test bed for their communications van. They have a van that is fully programmable and can be used for any frequencies.

If part of the migration towards the "ideal" system is achieving short-term interoperability, or if there are agencies that want to test that to the degree that our resources will allow, the committee is open to any kind of regional concept. If we are aware of a planned event, there is time to plan, set it up, establish a solution, and test it. If someone is willing to take the lead, contact David Felix or Curt Knight.

Alberto Gutier, Director for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, has volunteered to provide funding, especially in the highway safety, DUI arena.

David Felix and Mike Branham had discussions with the Office of National Drug Control Policy. They have ACU-1000's in their Technology Transfer program, with the Department of the Navy doing the engineering. They have different technology besides the ACU-1000, but they are looking for opportunities to take this and provide it to agencies at minimal or no cost. They have gone to Denver and deployed these devices and set up an interoperable communications network. Their idea is to possibly take it down the border.

Chicago Police Department has 3 ACU-1000's on board and they seem to be very happy with the devices. The devices look very promising.

### **Needs Assessment / RFP Status-Technical Subcommittee**

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The funding for the needs assessment has been transferred to DPS. The time frame for the grant funding was very aggressive, consequently, the Technical Subcommittee is behind schedule on the RFP. Curt Knight stated that the consultant will make direct contact with the 15 counties, and 13 to 14 cities. The subcommittee suggested a "Town Hall" type concept, supported by the PSCC committee, to reach out to smaller entities and counties of less than 50,000 people, along with the other population centers. The PSCC committee would collectively bring those groups together to get the word out regarding this Town Hall meeting, for participation in the final product. The PSCC committee will be the focal point to get the information out to our other participants.

A lengthy discussion was held about whether or not to pre-define some definitions and include the parameters supported by the PSCC committee on the RFP. It was decided to include the parameters as part of the RFP.

### **House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 2014**

Director Garrett thanked Senator Smith and his colleagues for getting the House Concurrent Resolution passed. It frames what the PSCC committee is trying to accomplish. The members of the 45<sup>th</sup> legislature recognize the importance of a statewide interoperable radio infrastructure.

### **Homeland Defense Funding**

Mike Branham introduced Gerry Hardt and Pat Nelson as the two people in charge of the integration side of the house. They are about to form their policy committee.

Related to Homeland Security, ACJC has heard that Congress will operate under continuing budget resolutions. It is anticipated the federal government could be under continuing resolutions all year, which is not good. About once each quarter, they cut back and put an emergency clause that allows them to continue to operate the federal government without a budget. The bad news is that it has not been determined who is going to control Homeland Security and how much money is really going to be available, and that extends to all the other federal grants they are working on. David Felix and Mike Branham are still in contact with Jon Kyl's office about making sure they remember the commitment they helped with last year to get these needs assessments started, to try and work on the architectural design for both the integration and the radio interoperability projects. Since the funding amount and resource is unknown, it is all a matter of discussion at this point. As of now, all the effort they have done with the integration side of the house has been done with federal funds. They will advise as soon as information is more definitive.

Mike Branham's interest is making sure that both of these projects continue to make sense for everybody. A number of the newer state legislators have been very impressed about the significant level of interest. Mike stated that when you are looking at those budgets, it is important to identify whether it is COPS Technology funding, COPS MORE funding, etc., and emphasized the importance of contacting Curt Knight and/or Gerry Hardt to let them know what you plan to do with the money.

### **Open Discussion / Comments**

It was suggested to include Glendale. Glendale signed a contract with Motorola for a Project 25 system. Point of contact is Commander Brent Ackzen.

DPS has been contacted by Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Yuma PD, Kingman, and Prescott. They are interested in what the PSCC committee is doing and are seeking answers to maximize what the

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committee is doing based on the study that has been done to help save costs. All this is in the discussion phases. Agencies have to find ways to cooperate and figure out what is best for public safety in general.

As an alternative, Phoenix Fire is experimenting with Intel as an infrastructure. They have had good success up to this point. One of the problems has been maintaining the level of security for public safety based systems. Fire doesn't transmit much patient information over the air. Intel has really enhanced their ability to protect the security. One of the things Fire was attracted to was their data system which runs parallel to the voice. It is a separate system. You don't have backup in the data system when you have excessive voice usage. They were at less than 30% capacity, and they were looking for customers. They did not have enough users that wanted to use wireless data. They embarked at their system because they had to do something, and it also gave them time to look at other alternatives since the cost of providing your own infrastructure is very expensive.

David Felix contacted the National Law Enforcement Corrections Technology Center, as well as PSWN to see about identifying engineering services or resources to conduct a propagation study of La Paz County. The sheriff has been frustrated with coverage, particularly in Quartzsite.

DPS submitted their critical issues to the Governor's Office. Two of the top four critical issues submitted, included the ACJIS upgrade for the criminal justice information system to a digital network to comply with NCIC 2000 requirements. We become the stumbling block if that doesn't happen within a very short period of time to be able to take advantage of new technology. The other issue is the microwave upgrade. DPS as an agency is going to pursue an upgrade to the statewide microwave system because we have envisioned IT as being the primary carrier for this statewide communications network. This upgrade has to happen even if we weren't able to make progress any other way. DPS and many of the criminal justice state agencies depend on the microwave system. A DPS Telecommunications staff report revealed that one of the towers on the mountain top has suffered so much ice damage, and is so old that it is probably borderline OSHA non-compliant. Staff are concerned about climbing the tower to service it.

Joe Noce complimented DPS for their assistance during their re-packing of channels with the 800 system. One of the critical functions required a temporary move of some frequencies, and DPS assisted with this.

Harry Beck stated that the Fire Service had the largest fire incident in the history of the state, which resulted in the largest deployment of mutual aid response. About 60+ fire agencies in the state, federal, and local fire districts responded, and communications was a big issue. A deep study in the response of the incident will be conducted, and hopefully there will be some support for interoperability. Prior to the fire situation, the Arizona State Fire Chiefs Association has been deep in the process of establishing a statewide mutual aid deployment system which is going to include a lot of pre-determined strike teams that are classified to be used in certain ways throughout the state so they don't take people who are not trained for a particular type of service, and place them in a position of high hazard. Involved in that is a deep study of statewide communications. There is more than 150 fire districts in the state of Arizona. Each one is a

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political entity. They are all galvanized at this point for statewide communications.

It was recommended to use the State Fair as an interoperable test project.

David Felix contacted the NLECTC and PSWN for staff support to facilitate discussion to review the committee's efforts, and charting out the next 5, 10 years, etc. in a basic strategic planning type document. PSCC committee participants have been consistent over the last couple years, but when people come and go and we need to lay something out for a legislator or someone new about what has gone on with the PSCC, it is important to have a document that outlines where we started, what has happened, and the milestones for the future. The needs assessment is underway, but a year from now, what is going to keep the interest of the committee moving in the right direction since there isn't going to a large flux of money due to the budget problems in the state. David Felix suggested developing a strategic plan during the next meeting, where this is the only item on the agenda. A comment was made that the document gives us a way of continuing to communicate with a lot of agencies that may not be familiar with what is going on and this would be a good measurement of where we are going.

The House Concurrent Resolution and some variation of this committee may eventually be codified in statute. If the legislature provided a source of funding, they are going to hold somebody responsible and it is probably going to be a commission, a committee, or a group, and it would probably be modeled after this committee. So it is a good idea to get into the project management mode. David Felix will pursue this, and if he is not successful through NLECTC or PSWN, he might ask the committee for resources or find out if someone is experienced in doing a high level strategic plan overview.

Senator Smith suggested occasionally presenting to the members of the committee, what the problems were and how they were resolved, what the committee has accomplished, and what action is planned for the future. The members get a sense of accomplishment when you track the results.

GITA oversees the technological kinds of projects that go on in the state. DPS intends to meet with GITA in the next few weeks to discuss some of the technology issues. David Felix thanked Bob Ramming for always attending the PSCC meetings.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2002. Location to be determined.

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.